

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 04230 190222Z

10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/057 W

----- 123814

R 181017Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 640

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MY

SUBJ: SABAH POLITICAL CRISIS

REF: A. KUALA LUMPUR 4190; B. KUALA LUMPUR 4170

1. SABAH CHIEF MINISTER TUN MUSTAPHA, SMILING AND SEEMINGLY UNBOWED, FLEW INTO PENANG JULY 17, DISMISSED ACCUSATIONS OF NEW SABAH OPPOSITION PARTY "BERJAYA" AS "PACK OF LIES" AND DECLARED THAT SABAH WILL NOT SECEDE FROM FEDERATION. IN PENANG, MUSTAPHA MET WITH HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER GHAZALI SHAFIE AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN. RESULTS OF THESE MEETINGS WERE NOT MADE PUBLIC, BUT RELIABLE PRESS SOURCE SAID THAT GHAZALI SHAFIE SOUGHT "CLARIFICATION" OF MUSTAPHA'S POSITION BECAUSE HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY WAS CAUGHT OFF GUARD BY RAPID TURN OF EVENTS IN SABAH. PRESS AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES

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PAGE 02 KUALA 04230 190222Z

HAVE TOLD US THAT REGISTRATION OF NEW PARTY JULY 12 AND

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY BERJAYA PRESIDENT DATUK HARRIS SALLEH (REF B) WERE PREMATURE," AND TIMING WAS NOT CONTROLLED BY PM RAZAK WHO HAS UP TO NOW SUPPORTED ANTI-MUSTAPHA MOVEMENT. IT APPEARS BERJAYA TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MUSTAPHA'S ABSENCE FROM COUNTRY (HE WAS IN JIDDA AT THE TIME OF ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE AND APPARENTLY FLEW TO LONDON JULY 14 OR 15) TO DECLARE SPLIT FROM UNITED SABAH NATIONAL ORGANIZATION (USNO) AND TO FORCE EARLY STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS.

2. AFTERNOON DAILY "MALAY MAIL" JULY 18 SAID BERJAYA HAS ISSUED TWO DEMANDS: ROYAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE MISMANAGEMENT AND CORRUPTION IN SABAH; AND "FREE AND DEMOCRATIC" ELECTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BERJAYA WANTS QUICK ELECTORAL TEST, BUT STATE GOVT (STILL UNDER CONTROL OF MUSTAPHA WHO IS RETURNING TO KOTA KINABALU TODAY) SAID IT WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE AND WILL NOT CALL ELECTIONS UNTIL END OF 1976. (LATTER STATEMENT DOES NOT SQUARE WITH INFORMATION OBTAINED BY EMBASSY THAT SABAH CHIEF OF STATE TUN MOHAMED FUAD/DONALD STEPHENS IS READY TO SIGN WRIT FOR NEW ELECTIONS AT ANY TIME. FUAD/STEPHENS REPORTEDLY BACKS BERJAYA.) ALSO, BERJAYA HAS CLAIMED SUPPORT OF 5 OUT OF 16 SABAH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND 9 STATE ASSEMBLYMEN; TO CONTROL STATE ASSEMBLY AND TO OUST MUSTAPHA AS CHIEF MINISTER, BERJAYA NEEDS 19 SEATS. AT THIS JUNCTURE, FUTURE OF SABAH CHINESE ASSOCIATION (SCA) IS UNCERTAIN BUT ITS 6 SEATS IN STATE ASSEMBLY COULD CONCEIVABLY TIP BALANCE AGAINST MUSTAPHA IF IT BACKS BERJAYA AS MOOTED YESTERDAY (PARA 2 REF A).

3. COMMENT: AT THIS POINT, IT APPEARS MUSTAPHA IS DETERMINED TO MARSHALL HIS POLITICAL SUPPORT IN SABAH AND TO FIGHT IT OUT WITH BERJAYA. POLITICAL OBSERVERS HERE BELIEVE THAT MUSTAPHA WILL BE IN RELATIVELY STRONG POSITION IF HE CAN BLOCK EARLY ELECTIONS. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AT THIS TIME APPEARS TO BE FENCE-SITTING AND IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER PM RAZAK WILL MOVE TO PROMOTE USNO-BERJAYA COALITION GOVT, TAKE BERJAYA INTO NATIONAL FRONT REPLACING USNO, OR CALL FOR EARLY ELECTIONS AS MEANS OF RESOLVING POLITICAL CRISIS. REPORTS FROM SABAH INDICATE THAT LAW AND ORDER IS BEING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KUALA 04230 190222Z

MAINTAINED AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO INCIDENTS.
DILLON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECESSION, PERSONAL OPINION, SABAH, OPPOSITION PARTIES, POLITICAL LEADERS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: PINT, MY, BERJAYA, (TUN MUSTAPHA), (TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN), (GHAZALI SHAFIE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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